

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-29 (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for treating images by combining data of the images into data of a composite image, the apparatus comprising:

an image input device for reading each of the images to be converted to the data of the image;

an image recording device for storing the respective data of the images;

an image combining device for combining the data of the images, input from the image recording device, into the data of the composite image and outputting the data of the composite image; and

a printing device for printing the composite image on a work-piece, on the basis of the data of the composite image, wherein:

the image input device includes picture elements, each of which picture elements reads a part of each image to be converted,

an area of the part of each image to be read by each picture element is changeable in accordance with at least one of a dimension of the composite image to be printed and a dimension of each image to be read, so that the images are included in the composite image.

31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein each printed image of the composite image has a predetermined width in a direction perpendicular to a printing direction of the printing device.

32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the printed images of the composite image have a predetermined common width in a direction perpendicular to a printing direction of the printing device.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein:  
each printed image of the composite image has an upstream end arranged at an upstream side of the image in a printing direction of the printing device, and

the image combining device combines the data of the images in such a manner that the upstream ends of the printed images adjacent to each other in a direction perpendicular to the

printing direction are aligned to form a straight line extending in the perpendicular direction.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein:

each printed image of the composite image has a predetermined width in a direction perpendicular to a printing direction of the printing device,

each of the printed images has an upstream end arranged at an upstream side of the image in the printing direction of the printing device, and

the image combining device combines the data of the images in such a manner that the upstream ends of the printed images adjacent to each other in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction are aligned to form a straight line extending in the perpendicular direction.

35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein:

the printed images of the composite image have a predetermined common width in a direction perpendicular to a printing direction of the printing device,

each of the printed images has an upstream end arranged at an upstream side of the image in the printing direction of the printing device, and

the image combining device combines the data of the images in such a manner that the upstream ends of the printed images adjacent to each other in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction are aligned to form a straight line extending in the perpendicular direction.